

PSC NEWSMissouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSC APPROVES AGREEMENT REACHED IN NOEL WATER COMPANY RATE CASE

JEFFERSON CITY--The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved an agreement authorizing Noel Water Company, Inc. to increase water revenues by approximately \$42,000 a year for service on and after June 30, 2005. This is the company's first water rate increase since March of 1997.

Noel Water Company, Inc. submitted a rate request on March 14, 2005, seeking to increase annual water revenues by approximately \$42,000 citing, among other things, the general cost of operating supplies, chemical costs and electric energy rates.

The PSC Staff conducted a thorough audit of the books and records of Noel Water Company, Inc. Based upon the audit, staff stated an increase of approximately \$42,000 in annual water revenues was warranted.

The agreement approved by the Commission was submitted by the water company, the PSC staff and the Office of the Public Counsel (the state government agency which represents the general public in matters before the Public Service Commission).

For a residential customer using approximately 6,000 gallons of water a month, water rates will increase from the current monthly rate of \$9.89 to \$11.56 a month.

Noel Water Company, Inc. provides water service to approximately 660 customers near Noel, Missouri.